

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1-8. (Withdrawn)

9. (Currently amended) A The-screening method for a prophylactic or therapeutic substance for diabetes or a renal disease, of claim 7, which comprises cultivating a cell that contains an insulin gene or a gene under the control of an insulin promoter with containing a gene whose expression is controlled by a protein comprising the same or substantially the same amino acid sequence as the amino acid sequence shown by SEQ ID NO:2 or a partial peptide thereof or a salt thereof with said protein or a partial peptide thereof or a salt thereof in the presence and absence of a test substance, and comparing the expressions expression level of the insulin gene or the gene under the control of the insulin promoter in the presence and absence of the test substance, said gene and selecting the test substance that changes the expression level of the insulin gene or the gene under the control of the insulin promoter as a candidate for the prophylactic or therapeutic substance.

10-12. (Withdrawn)

13. (Canceled)

14. (Canceled)

15. (Currently amended) The screening method of claim 944, wherein the cell contains a polynucleotide comprising ~~comprises the entire or a portion of the base nucleotide~~ sequence shown by SEQ ID NO:1, which encodes the amino acid sequence shown by SEQ ID NO:2.

16. (Canceled)

17. (Currently amended) The screening method of claim 944, wherein the renal disease is diabetic nephropathy.

18. (Currently amended) ~~A. The screening method for a prophylactic or therapeutic substance for diabetes or a renal disease, of claim 14,~~ which comprises cultivating a cell having an ability to produce a protein comprising the same or substantially the same amino acid sequence as the amino acid sequence shown by SEQ ID NO:2 or a partial peptide thereof or a salt thereof in the presence and absence of a test substance, and comparing the expression level ~~amounts of the~~ mRNA that encodes said protein or a partial peptide thereof in the presence and absence of the test substance, under the two conditions and selecting the test substance that changes the expression level of the mRNA as a candidate for the prophylactic or therapeutic substance.

19-31. (Withdrawn)

32-33. (Canceled)

34-35. (Withdrawn)

36-37. (Cancelled)

38. (New) The screening method of claim 9, wherein the test substance that increases the expression level of the insulin gene or the gene under the control of the insulin promoter is selected as a candidate for the prophylactic or therapeutic substance.

39. (New) The screening method of claim 9, wherein the cell is cultivated with a protein comprising the amino acid sequence shown by SEQ ID NO:2 or a salt thereof.

40. (New) The screening method of claim 9, wherein the cell has the ability to produce a protein comprising the amino acid sequence shown by SEQ ID NO:2 or a salt thereof.

41. (New) The screening method of claim 18, wherein the test substance that decreases the expression level of the mRNA is selected as a candidate for the prophylactic or therapeutic substance.

42. (New) The screening method of claim 18, wherein the cell has the ability to produce a protein comprising the amino acid sequence shown by SEQ ID NO:2 or a salt thereof.

43. (New) The screening method of claim 18, wherein the renal disease is diabetic nephropathy.